



**TESTIMONY
JOHN YUSZA, JR.
CONNECTICUT ALARM & SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

The Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association (CASIA) *supports* **HB-5326, AN ACT REQUIRING THE PRESENCE OF CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

Carbon Monoxide detectors are critical to protecting the lives and safety of students, teachers and other employees in our schools. An increasing number of heating appliances and equipment used in schools emit carbon monoxide which can cause severe illness and death.

The bill also requires the detectors to be tested on a regular basis to ensure that they are in working order. This is important since schools may fail to adequately maintain detectors, rendering them useless.

Although the dangers associated with carbon monoxide are well-documented, schools in Connecticut are not required to install detectors which would monitor levels of carbon monoxide and emit warnings to ensure that students and faculty are able to safely leave the building.

Recognizing the importance of alarms to protecting the safety of our students and teachers, schools are required to be equipped with fire alarms and sprinklers. Many have also installed security alarms. It makes no sense that carbon monoxide detectors are not included in these requirements. They are an inexpensive way to ensure the safety of our schools.

We therefore urge your support for HB-5326.

CASIA / Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association, established, in 1974, is a statewide trade association formerly known as the Connecticut Burglar and Fire Alarm Association / CBFAA. Dedicated to protecting lives and property through the responsible use of electronic security, fire and supervisory alarm systems, digital technologies have enabled member companies to offer enhanced services through integrated network systems.